

REGION 7:

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3ct3vvQ"](http://bit.ly/3ct3vvQ)]

The environmental concerns about the AltEn ethanol plant in Mead underscore the importance of appropriate regulation and provide important lessons for Nebraska.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/2MHktvx"](http://bit.ly/2MHktvx)]

Even the smallest demolition projects require detailed planning, on-site coordination and constant communication, but when the task is taking down 4.5 million square feet of buildings located on 300 acres, the importance of proper preparation cannot be overstated.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3aGaD5D"](http://bit.ly/3aGaD5D)]

Missouri DNR is considering changing the groundwater definition to exclude perched water — get this — FOR CAFOs ONLY. Shouldn't all groundwater sources be safeguarded and handled with care, no matter the industry?

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3tFs5zQ"](http://bit.ly/3tFs5zQ)]

In Nebraska, the Omaha World Herald newspaper reports that the AltEn ethanol plant in Mead is the target of a new bill being introduced into the state legislature that would ban it from using pesticide-treated seed corn as feedstock.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3jjmTgh"](http://bit.ly/3jjmTgh)]

Iowa's Ag Secretary Mike Naig tells Brownfield he sees plenty of optimism right now. He says there's also some caution as farmers think about tax and climate policy under President Biden.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/2MGnXi9"](http://bit.ly/2MGnXi9)]

Infrastructure along with regulatory and tax reform are among the top issues the Equipment Dealers Association is asking the Biden administration to prioritize.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3rp9Lc7"](http://bit.ly/3rp9Lc7)]

The President of Missouri Farm Bureau says he is concerned about President Biden revisiting the Waters of the United States Rule.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3cGVovF"](http://bit.ly/3cGVovF)]

Iowa Republican Sen. Charles Grassley said he wants regulatory stability in agriculture when considering the Biden administration's nominee to head the EPA, Michael Regan. In a recent conversation with Regan ahead of his Wednesday hearing before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Grassley said he expressed concern about how Regan would approach biofuels and regulating water on farms.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/2O6v6sJ"](http://bit.ly/2O6v6sJ)]

Tom Vilsack appeared remotely before members of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee for a nearly four-hour hearing. It's the next step before Vilsack can return at the nation's U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/2YFAqVN"](http://bit.ly/2YFAqVN)]

The Lake City Council is hoping to fast-track mandatory improvements to the community's wastewater treatment systems. However, Wood says they can fall back on the disadvantaged community status and the DNR's State Revolving Fund (SRF) to complete the improvements if necessary.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3cBzXvU"](http://bit.ly/3cBzXvU)]

The Rebuild Rural Coalition, consisting of more than 250 groups, sent a letter to the Biden administration asking that it make sure to put enough resources for rural needs into its infrastructure plan. The coalition represents groups that include U.S. agricultural producers, rural businesses, rural communities, and rural families.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3rkIFTx"](http://bit.ly/3rkIFTx)]

There's a growing concern in Mead, Nebraska about the ethanol plant within the city. This has lead Senator Bruce Bostelman to bring legislation to prohibit treated seed corn if it's harmful to people and livestock.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/2LjUKtI"](http://bit.ly/2LjUKtI)]

State lawmakers were urged Wednesday to quickly advance and pass a bill that would force an ethanol plant near Mead to stop using pesticide-treated seed corn to produce fuel.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/2YJ4oIr"](http://bit.ly/2YJ4oIr)]

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is awarding a \$40,000 grant to the city of Galena, Kansas. The funds will be used to evaluate Galena's wastewater system.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/2MsLkvt"](http://bit.ly/2MsLkvt)]

Climate change is impacting Iowa agriculture and negative impacts are expected to increasingly threaten agricultural productivity in the state. There are many ways, however, that farmers and landowners can increase the resiliency of production systems, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and even capture carbon.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3cxQf9a"](http://bit.ly/3cxQf9a)]

The battle over wind turbines continues to rage in Iowa's Madison County, where supervisors have approved restrictions on wind and solar development that opponents say strip landowners of their rights and jeopardize new and existing renewable energy projects.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/2MPzbAx"](http://bit.ly/2MPzbAx)]

Cities would not be able to ban natural gas as an energy source under a bill being considered in the Kansas Senate. Environmental organizations say the bill could slow a transition to renewable energy, while supporters say measure would help keep Kansas electric rates low.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3cv5RKf"](http://bit.ly/3cv5RKf)]

President Biden has been signing executive orders to reverse Trump administration policies, but some parts of Trump's legacy won't be easy to reverse. For example,

research into food and farming took a major hit during the Trump years. Here's Frank Morris of member station KCUR.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/3j4erRU"](http://bit.ly/3j4erRU)]

The global race to net-zero emissions has begun. But the world has much further to run.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/2YyBc6X"](http://bit.ly/2YyBc6X)]

NioCorp Developments Ltd. is working to construct a mining facility near Elk Creek, Nebraska. The facility will be the only one in North America that produces three superalloy elements – niobium, scandium and titanium.

[[HYPERLINK "http://bit.ly/39AoHhC"](http://bit.ly/39AoHhC)]

Little passion greeted President Joe Biden's decision to kill the Keystone XL pipeline. Remarkably little. But the Keystone XL pipeline was an artifact from an earlier time.

[[HYPERLINK "https://bit.ly/3toCole"](https://bit.ly/3toCole)]

Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) led a bipartisan group of senators in sending a letter to the EPA asking for a review of the three exemptions issued by former Trump EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, which, according to the letter, betrayed earlier assertions by the Trump Administration that EPA would not grant additional waivers pending the resolution of ongoing litigation.

[[HYPERLINK "https://bit.ly/2MZ6UrD"](https://bit.ly/2MZ6UrD)]

Growth Energy filed comments on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed Consent Decree for the United Refining Co. v. Wheeler case, in which United Refining challenged EPA's failure to act in a timely manner on its petition for a small refinery exemption from its 2019 Renewable Fuel Standard obligation.